

WAR WILL CAUSE INCREASE OF INSANITY AMONG NATIONS, DECLARES SPECIALIST

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EVERY thinking individual must realize that the terrible struggle now being waged in Europe will produce results which as a whole have never before been equalled in history. The significant figures of the thousands upon thousands of combatants alone would entitle the casualty list to first place.

Never before have such hordes of technically trained troops battled against each other. Never before have the onslaughts been so scientifically murderous and the devastation so appalling. In this war, when a victorious army deems it necessary to punish a few citizens and set an example for the rest, a priceless treasure like Louvain is razed to the ground. A battle line is not confined to several miles; it stretches across a nation. The cost of food, ammunition, transportation, etc., approximates a half billion dollars a day. With such staggering magnitude are operations carried on nowadays!

In contemplating huge values one naturally loses sight of the more remote results which will not only gradually manifest themselves, but which will have an effect of no greater and more permanent effect upon civilization in general. Whether it be true or false that crises such as this are inevitable, whether or not the question of world militarism could only have been settled in this fashion, whether autocracy must meet a Waterloo or become an unbearable menace, whether or not a clearing of the atmosphere at the present time will constitute the strongest potential force toward the development of universal peace, we must needs agree with the sagacious Ben Franklin, who wrote: "Whatever advantage one nation would obtain from another, it would be cheaper to purchase such advantage with ready money than to pay the expense of acquiring it by war." But a week after the treaty of Paris, to which he himself had affixed his signature, he wrote to a friend: "May we never see another war, for, in my opinion, there never was a good one, nor a bad one."

During the whole of the Franco-German war the German dead totalled 28,000 and the disabled and wounded 100,000. The French lost 154,000 killed and 143,000 disabled and wounded. Reports have it that in the war now being fought a single battle harvests even more, and probably the truth will not be known until the whole horrible business is settled.

All the nations now have their best troops in the field and since already with actual hostilities only a few weeks old, the last reserves and the striplings are being called to the colors, we may deduce that the flower of these hosts is rapidly being decimated. Surely Germany, France and Belgium are making most supreme efforts and such efforts can only be effective with the very best men. The sad part of it all is that the most virile of the nation are culled for cannon food, yet in modern warfare

Nerve Racking Experiences, Untold Hardships and the Killing of the Most Virile Will Affect Children of Next Generation, Says Dr. Bisch

brawn and superior intelligence do not necessarily make the best soldiers.

With the leaders it is different, but they are few and are seldom shot. To quote David Starr Jordan: "There was once a time when the struggles of armies resulted in a survival of the fittest, when the race was indeed to the swift and the battle to the strong. The invention of 'villainous gunpowder' has changed all this. Except the kind of warfare called guerrilla, the quality of the individual has ceased to be much of a factor. The clown can shoot down the hero, and, in the words of Charles F. Lummis, he doesn't have to look the hero in the face while he shoots. The shell destroys the clown and hero alike, and the machine gun mows down whole ranks impartially. There is little play for selection in modern war save what is shown in the process of enlistment."

And in an up to date Armageddon such as now selection in enlistment is one of the worst features; the rank and file private is submerged and assimilated into huge units, he is demoralized to an it, brain atrophies for want of use; brawn is whipped to the maximum and then left neglected by the roadside. It is said that the German infantryman doesn't even attempt to aim—he simply places the gun at his shoulder and shoots. Individual marksmanship has given way to volley fire. It is also reported that the Germans do not like the old fashioned bayonet charges. Yet their military was supposed to be the latest word in armies.

Thus individual heroism, endurance and ability have vanished. It is now largely a question of mechanics, with these sterling qualities feeding the furnaces.

Dealing with the period following the Franco-German war, Max Nordau writes: "Every single Frenchman suffered reverses of fortune, lost members of his family and left himself personally robbed of his dearest possessions, nay, even of his honor. The whole people fell into the condition of a man suddenly visited by a crushing blow of destiny, in his fortune, his position, his family, his reputation, even in his self-respect."

It is well known to psychiatrists that stress and strain operate most heavily in breaking down nervous stability. The more civilized we become the more insane we have, and the same is true of all diseases in general. It is not the increased intelligence itself coexistent with advanced civilization that tends toward nerve exhaustion; it is the wear and tear of nerve tissue involved in the struggle for existence together with the refining of the nervous system which makes the mechanism more delicate and thus more susceptible to prostration.

In 1890 the insane in New York State

hospitals and almshouses numbered 16,000, while in 1910 the number had jumped to 32,658. In twenty years time there was an increase of over 104 per cent. During the same period the increase of population was only 52 per cent. Unfortunately, we have no similar statistics concerning feeble-mindedness, but it is believed by many that this is also on the increase.

Some observers hold that the most frequent causative factor in the production of feeble-minded children is a morbid heredity. Tredgold states that in his inquiries "over 80 per cent of persons suffering from the severer grades of imbecility (mental deficiency) were the descendants of pronounced neuropathic stock. In 64 per cent the heredity was in the form of insanity or epilepsy; while in 18 per cent it consisted of a marked family tendency to paralysis, cerebral hemorrhages or various neuroses and psychoses (insanities)."

He further cites the findings of Beach and Shuttleworth that "insanity, epilepsy and allied neuroses were well marked in the ancestors of 42 per cent of the patients they examined; but Dr. Caldwell considers that 70 to 75 per cent have neuropathic antecedents. In America a commission appointed by the Legislature of Connecticut found neuropathic heredity to be the undoubted cause in 43 per cent. In Germany Koch came to the conclusion that it accounted for 60 per cent of cases. In Switzerland (canton of Bern) the census of 1893 showed that heredity was present in 55 per cent of idiots; while in Norway Ludwig Dahl found it to occur in 50 per cent of cases."

Generally speaking we may say that in all diseases there are two causative agents operating, an underlying cause and a precipitating cause. The French Revolution may be paralleled. The underlying cause was the oppression of the bourgeoisie by the nobles for several centuries; the precipitating cause was the storming of the Bastille.

In parents, for example, popularly known as softening of the brain, the underlying fundamental cause is a certain so-called blood disease, while the factors which may bring the symptoms of paresis to the fore, precipitate them, are mental stress and anxiety, alcoholism, and the like. A person may have the blood disease and never develop paresis or any other very strikingly serious malady, simply because the precipitating cause is avoided.

Thus much can be done in the way of prevention in mental hygiene not only in the present generation, but even more especially for those to follow. Eugenics has a place in controlling hereditary factors, but legislation will not do it. What is necessary is the wider dissemination of knowledge of these

matters, more scientific study and a rational and healthy public opinion.

Excellent beginnings have already been made. The clearing house for mental defectives at the Post-Graduate Hospital is doing fine work in examining, advising, promptly disposing of cases, and in research. Columbia University through its extension courses gives an opportunity to all those interested to study these and allied subjects from scientific points of view.

But much good work will be undone by the present crisis. Exhaustion, deprivation, worry, financial stress, impoverishment, excitement, all already are following and will continue to follow in the wake of the struggle. The majority of the most virile will be either killed or disabled, the women at home will suffer untold hardship of every kind. What will the result of the war be from the standpoint of mental health? Undoubtedly an increase of insanity, amnesia and nervous diseases.

Legrand du Saulle says: "Out of ninety-two children born in Paris during the great siege of 1870-71 sixty-four had mental and physical anomalies and diseases often went away whole and well; twenty-one were imbeciles or idiotic and eight showed moral or emotional insanity." And on the authority of Nordau we have this statement: "Thousands lost their reason. In Paris a veritable epidemic of mental diseases was observed, for which a special name was found—la folie obsessionnelle, 'obsessive madness.' And even those who did not at once succumb to mental derangement suffered lasting injury to their nervous systems."

As pointed out above, mental and nervous derangements are already on the increase. The mere progress of civilization is doing it and all this in times of peace with comparative tranquillity everywhere. It therefore stands to reason, aside from Du Saulle's and Nordau's statistics, that these "times that try men's souls" will unbalance many a mind that under a usual environment would never have become so affected, and as the nations now involved are highly strung peoples so much the more heavily will this precipitating cause war, operate.

True it is that Du Saulle and Nordau are writing of a defeated nation, France, a nation in fact that possessed a most marked ego prior to 1870—a factor in itself tending toward hysteria. But if such results obtain in a war which when compared to the present one shrink into insignificance, it logically follows that the participants will all be losers in the end, and what obtained during the siege of Paris will be experienced to a greater or less degree by every nation. The victors will find their crown of laurel full of thorns.

The strain of modern warfare on the

body and nerves is very much greater than in former days. To be sure, means of transportation, food supplies and manœuvres are better marshalled than ever, but that simply means that whereas formerly an army could only travel so many miles a day, now it will have to travel more than double the former distance. There may be more ration available, but there are also more mouths to feed. Automobiles may be swift and convenient, but it is also tiring to run them.

The very rapidity of operations perhaps makes war more strenuous than when hand to hand encounter was the issue. To estimate what nerve racking experience a campaign is we have only to contemplate an army when it is beaten, and how quickly a retreat may develop into a rout with utter demoralization of the troops. Observers have stated that at such times soldiers, perhaps without sufficient water and food, become oblivious to everything, completely lose their perspective, act like frightened animals, and become mere creatures of impulse. Scout heard fellows have been known to cry like babies. Many have actually gone mad. It requires greater generalship to control an army in defeat than one in victory.

Again, in former wars, the ravages of infected wounds and disease produced by famine and pestilence were frightful. In fact, these were the worst features of war. Infectious and contagious diseases often swept away whole regiments, and the scourge was not confined to combatants, but spread to non-combatants as well. Then it was a question of the survival of the fittest, the weaker ones succumbing and only the most virile living.

But the European war is a sanitary war. In the first place, the present day bullets, because of the heat created by their enormous velocity, are practically harmless. They do not create blood poisoning, and much fewer will lodge within the body, being driven right through. In the second place, the medical corps are nowadays exceedingly efficient, and much time and energy will be given not only to preventing the spread of disease, but even more so to its production.

Prophylaxis will be carried on everywhere. Every doctor and nurse on the American Red Cross ship which is sailing to Europe has been vaccinated and each one immunized by injections against typhoid, and no doubt similar precautions obtain abroad. Furthermore, the first aid work will probably be more thorough than formerly, and the medical and surgical technique more expert. But all this humanitarianism also means that more disabled men will be left behind, and they will be watched over better, they will still be patched.

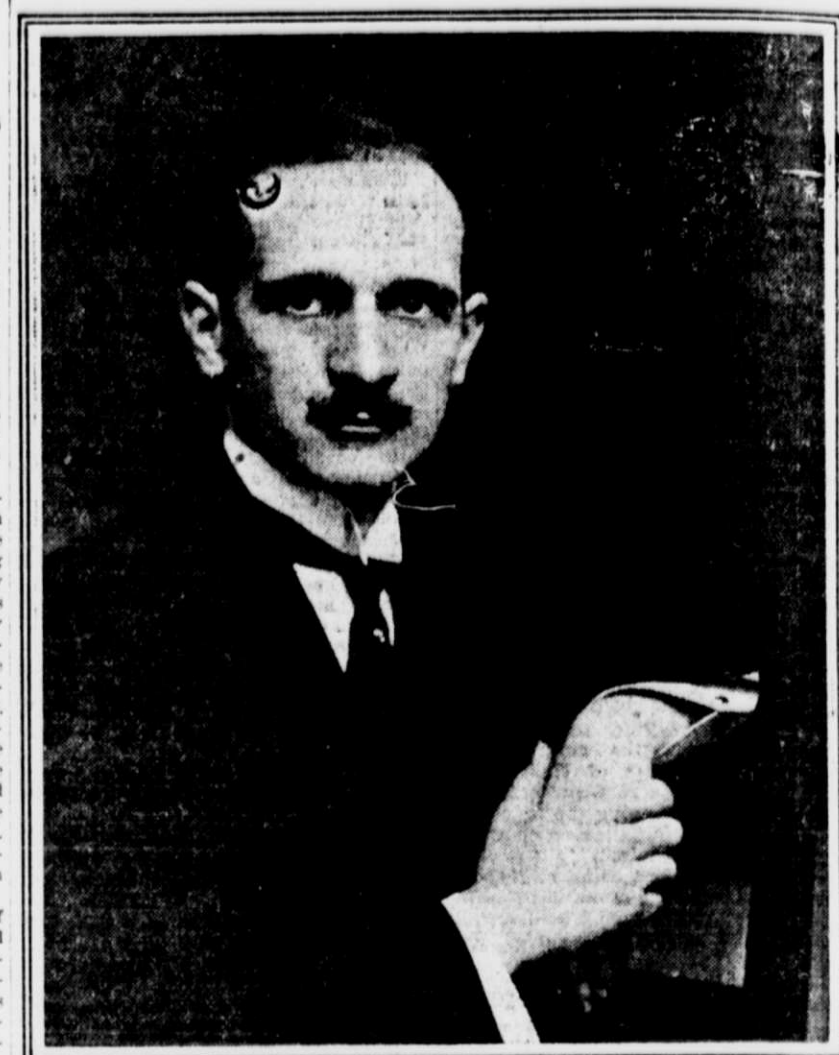
Some hold that the majority of mental diseases are directly due to bodily disorders and others believe that hereditary predisposition is an equally important causative agent. This applies to both psychoses and amnesia.

Parents who have endured overexertion, have suffered from poor health and are of advanced years are more prone to give birth to children with feeble-mindedness who may develop insanity, epilepsy, hysteria, hypochondria and eccentricity than are those who are not so affected. Surely the children in the next generation born of the present warring nations will possess unfavorable influences.

What also tends to deplete a race is emigration. The strongest, keenest and most audacious leave and the weaker are left behind. War seems to affect this also, and it is a curious fact that when the levy of recruits was made in Germany in 1876, of the 1,149,042 who were supposed to appear for military service, 35,265 could not be found, 109,356 remained as sick without excuse, 12,293 had been sentenced for illegal emigration and 14,924 were on trial for the same cause. To quote from "The Human Harvest," by David Starr Jordan: "The effects of emigration run parallel with the effects of war, but with this enormous difference—the strong men who emigrate are not lost to the world. The loss of one region is the gain of the other. But the losses in war can yield no corresponding gain."

Does war perceptibly influence the birth rate? Seemingly not, while economic conditions do.

After the Franco-German war the



Dr. Louis E. Bisch.

birthrate of Germany increased and that of France decreased. But Germany had been increasing and France decreasing before the war.

In the year 1872, when the German Empire was enjoying increased prosperity (which later, however, proved to be largely inflated) there were 423,900 marriages concluded. When the economic panic reached its height in 1879 the marriages fell to 335,133. But the important thing from the physical and mental stability point of view is not so much the number of marriages and births, but the quality of the children born.

Physicians are accustomed to surround prospective mothers with safeguards tending to eliminate as much as possible deleterious nervous influences, and what is perhaps even more salient, we must see that their physical conditions are as sound as possible. Already in Germany the food supply is growing short, with prices steadily rising. In such dreadful times as these what must the mental and physical conditions of the majority of these unhappy women be?

Furthermore, with a marked diminution in the number of males, women will to a much greater extent than formerly take their places in the fields and factories. That hard labor, confinement, cabin doors, etc., are detrimental to the nervous system and maternity, especially to women not accustomed to such conditions, cannot be denied.

Herbert Spencer formulated this doctrine: "The ability to maintain individual life and the ability to multiply vary inversely." In other words, the more specialized we become under the increasing stress of civilization the less we become for procreation. Highly developed nervous mechanisms tend toward comparative sterility. And it might be interesting to note here that maternity is fraught with more danger now than it used to be, and the placid, ignorant peasant woman has an easier time than her neurotic city bred sister.

The present European war is a

fraternal calamity. Materially, it will profit nothing. Much will be forever lost, and the rest will be merely redistributed. Mental and physical suffering will never be atoned for. The sum total of European mind will be less efficient and healthy than it was.

THE BIG LOSERS.

It is not alone the laying off of great liners like the Vaterland and the Kaiser, the George Washington and the Kronprinzessin Cecilie that is the source of worry to the stockholders of the big German steamship lines. Such ships cost a fortune to run, and

they do not carry much cargo, and unless passenger traffic is heavy the floating palaces are lucky to make expenses.

Smaller liners, such as the President Lincoln, President Grant, Pennsylvania, Grosser Kurfuerst, Barbarossa and vessels of this type roll up the profits for the Hamburg and Bremen shipping lines. It is a coincidence that all of these ships which paid so handsomely in the past are now lying up in this port. The President Lincoln and President Grant, which are now lying idle at the Hamburg-American South Brooklyn pier, are the most modern of this dividend fleet and are probably the two best paying ships afloat. With a very large cargo and stowage passenger capacity these two vessels have cost about one-third the operating expenses of the great express ships.

The Lincoln and the Grant, each of 18,000 tons register, have a capacity for 15,000 tons of cargo each. It was in these vessels that a good deal of the American machinery and heavy freight for Germany were carried. They very seldom left port that they were not down to the Pilsnolli mark with cargo, and that meant a big bill for the shipper to pay.

Very little cargo is carried by the express ships, those palatial vessels that must have an army of stewards on board, to say nothing of the expensive food and the 1,200 tons of coal eaten up every day. It has been said that it cost \$125,000 to run the Vaterland a round voyage. But if the vessel had 800 saloon passengers at \$250 each the trip would probably be profitable. This is not considering second or third class passengers, from which some profit could reasonably be expected on such a voyage. But of cargo she would have very little on any trip, probably 500 or 1,000 tons of light stuff, known as express freight.

A party of newspaper men were coming up the bay several months ago on a tug with Vice-Director Meyer of the Hamburg-American Line. The Pennsylvania passed down the harbor bound out to sea.

"Give me that ship," said Mr. Meyer with a smile, "and you can have all the big ones."

The remark was made in a more or less joking way, but it meant that the smaller ship, needing a comparatively small number of stewards and without the luxurious accommodations of the floating hotel, but with big cargo space and stowage capacity, is really the big dividend builder and the foundation of all profits in the long run. Liners of this class run all the year, except for a short overhaul period, but the Vaterland and Imperator and other big vessels must be laid up each year from about November 1 to April 1. This is necessary because of slackness in passenger business.

Christy Mathewson, Hero of the Baseball Diamond, to Be Idol of the "Movie" Fans

CURIOSITY has conquered the seldom falling hero of the baseball diamond. Curiosity—and curiosity alone—stepped up to believe "Big Six" Christy Mathewson and whispered honey words into the ears of the sturdy pitcher. And when he heard the aforementioned honeyed words, he put down his battle stick, folded up his worn glove and hurried away from the ball field. An automobile whisked the crying Matty away from the Polo Grounds, through the noisy Harlem streets, down town until it reached Forty-third street and Eleventh avenue. There the machine pulled up to the curb, the tonneau door opened and Christy walked out of the baseball world and into the world of show.

Blinded by the radiant stars in the

thought the Red Sox had a chance to scoop the American League. But other queries pertaining to the diamond. In due time Matty felt entirely at home, and turning to Manager Julius Stern, he said:

"I'd like to see one picture being taken, Mr. Stern," said Matty.

Enough. Stern led Christy over the line, and motioning for his company to get into their places, he gave a few curt commands. At once the camera clicked, and the silent drama was resumed. Christy stood watching every move of the photo players with breathless interest. Stern cast a glance toward the pitcher and noticed the absorbing concern with which he followed the actors and at once his busy brain began stirring. What if he could interest the "Big Six" to the extent of making him a movie actor? Would it not be a supreme treat for the baseball "fan" to

way. Before Christy had quite collected himself, he had signed a contract making him a real, honest to goodness movie star. He left the offices with a peculiar glint in his steel grey eyes.

Then started the work of preparing scenarios for the new star. Christy was consulted and all the escapades of his life were unearthed. The facts revealed proved so full of material that there was nothing needed of a fictitious nature to fill out the plots. It was then arranged that these stories should be transformed into a series of separate plots, and one of these plots should be completed every month for a year.

The first story was named "Love and Baseball." Christy's avidity to begin on the picture was beyond all bounds, so Director Stuart Paton started working at once. As an actor Christy made admirable advances, surprising many of the old seasoned artists, who lingered

in her father's store as a bookkeeper.

Then the villain entered. This youth also loves the girl. He also plans his campaign that Christy gets into difficulties with the father and leaves the store.

Matty secures the girl's promise to wait for him and starts out to make a baseball career. He goes into a bush league, where he plays phenomenal ball. A big league scout discovers him and makes him an offer. Christy goes away to the city, gradually pitching his way to fame. Throughout the entire picture there is enough action taking place on the ball grounds to keep all ball "fans" interested. Fortified by his record Christy then returns to his home town, only to discover that his sweetheart's father has become an ardent baseball rooster. The father gives Matty his permission to marry the girl any time he wants. When it was first learned that Christy had joined the movies many of his ad-



Matty choosing sides.

see. It would not have mattered, but at that moment a picture was in progress and the actors were using the very set, which happened to be a luxurious ballroom, into which the baseball hero made his impromptu entrance. The director set up a roar, but learning Christy's identity, and incidentally being a Giant rooter, at once forgave the king of pitchers. The camera was stopped and the members of the company swarmed around Christy asking all sorts of questions concerning the Giant's outlook for winning the pennant, if he

see his hero before him, acting? A hero of the diamond and a hero of the drama, worshipped in both!

The action suddenly came to an end. The camera stopped. Christy gave vent to an audible sigh of interest. Hearing this, Stern approached him.

"You know, I'd like to try that game once myself," Christy told the director.

That settled it. Grasping the player's arm, Stern hurried him out of the Imp Studio and over to the offices of the Universal Film Manufacturing Company at Forty-eighth street and Broad-

about the studio to watch the ball player's performances. And so, bit by bit, Manager Stern's visions became realities.

The story is taken from incidents in Matty's youth, when his heart had gone out to the daughter of a grocer back in his home town. And there is a rival, too, but let's leave the story.

As a youth Matty struggles against his love for his sweetheart and the call of the ball park. Listening to that young lady's pleas, he accepts a position



Winding up for the camera.

liners were overcome with the thought that their idol had left the New York Giants. But there is no need to fear so great a catastrophe, because the old king of the diamond will lead from now on a double life—that of a baseball star and a movie star.

American Newspaper Men's Experience With the Allied Army in France

Continued from Third Page.

finishing an al fresco luncheon. They joined us and proved to be the only American War Correspondent, greatly annoyed at being captured, as he had been so often captured during the Mexican war that no copy was left in it for him. An English War Correspondent in a khaki suit that imitated a uniform, and with the ribbons of several medals; another American war correspondent, not yet among the "onlies," and an ex-officer of the United States army, who could not understand why that title could not pass him everywhere.

They had been catering round the outskirts of the city, possessing cards which admitted reporters to the official communications in Paris twice a day, and naturally found themselves stopped when they drove into a mouse trap like a Quartier General.

Fortunately for them as we were to be sent away at 3 (and because, I believe, the headquarters staff was in a hurry to get away), they were sent away at the same time. Our automobile was returned to us, but in a sad state. The starter refused to work, the hand brake was out of business, and generally speaking our handsome Packard looked irreparable.

About 4 the procession got under way, two carloads, one of real war correspondents and one of amateurs, each with a gendarme to keep them in, and a gendarme captain in a third.

We were supposed to make Paris by 7.30, but it was 9 before we reached the fortifications. As it was evident that we should not be free before all restaurants were closed, we debated whether we should adjourn to the apartment of the stout or slim correspondent to consume the remaining 100 of sardines and anything else we could find in their married quarters. We settled this point before reaching Gen. Gallien's quarters and were discussing

when and where we should hold a dinner in celebration when we found that we were refused admittance to the official residence and must go round to the offices of the Military Governor of Paris, a grim high school on the Boulevard des Invalides, adjoining the Hotel Biron, where Rodin lives. Our gendarme captain went in, but apparently found no one willing to receive us, for he came out in a short time and gave the order to the chauffeurs to follow him.

Away we went through the darkness (very few gas or electric lights being lit in the district) until we stopped before a building which we, as Parisians, recognized as the Cherche-Midi prison. We all felt like so many Dreyfuses as we heard the door clank behind us, but did not despair, as one of the party (the ex-officer) had been allowed to go under escort and inform Ambassador Herriot of our fate, and we at least who knew him had no fear that liberty would be long in coming.

Naturally we beset the officer in charge of the prison with protestations. The only American War Correspondent told him that 25,000,000 of it are not sure if I have put the right number of ciphers. Americans were waiting to read his account of the burning of Rheims Cathedral next day and would not believe it had been burned unless they read it over his signature. It was therefore a matter of life and death to understand English or American; in fact, the only thing he seemed to have grasped was that when any one had been delivered to his custody he was not to let him go or enable him to take any step toward going until the same authority came and liberated him.

He agreed to send to the nearest hotel for something to eat and drink and we had a scratch meal, greatly needed by this time, in the entry hall of the prison. Then arrived Major Klotz, formerly known to residents of Paris as M. Klotz, ex-Minister of Finance, but now

the presiding deity of the press bureau, which runs the war publicity department with an iron hand. He told us he had arranged to spare us a night in Cherche-Midi prison, but to fix us up in the former high school, which we had just left.

I should not forget, however, that the lieutenant in charge of the Cherche-Midi prison said the same thing as the Colonel commanding the gendarmes at Romigny; we were still not prisoners, only detained; "in fact," he added, "Cherche-Midi is not a prison."

In what had been the library of the school seven beds were placed with mattresses, pillows and one blanket. I was glad I had brought a sack away as a souvenir; it was useful on so cold a night. Gendarmes were placed at the door.

Next morning the military attaché of the American Embassy, Major Costy, arrived and explained matters and we each had to sign a document promising not to talk about what we had seen or write anything, even a private letter, without submitting it to the censor. For a period of eight days. This was meant as a precaution against our divulging any military movements we may have seen, not to prevent us from writing about our personal experiences. Personally I had not detected any military movements, but I had been a real war correspondent for five days, none of them in prison, at least under detention, I ought to say. I had seen and seen shells burst but had not seen a dead soldier. I could have written about seeing the gutters of a peaceful French village running with blood. I should have felt myself bound to explain that scores of soldiers were sitting up cattle and sheep in the market place to send the beef and mutton to the fighting line. A temporary dissemination of the digestive apparatus is the chief result of my first attempt to be an Archibald Forbes.